

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C. www.newriver.usmc.mil

March 24, 2004

Vol. 43 No. 6

**“Ironhorse” inspects
NROTC cadets....Pg. 4**



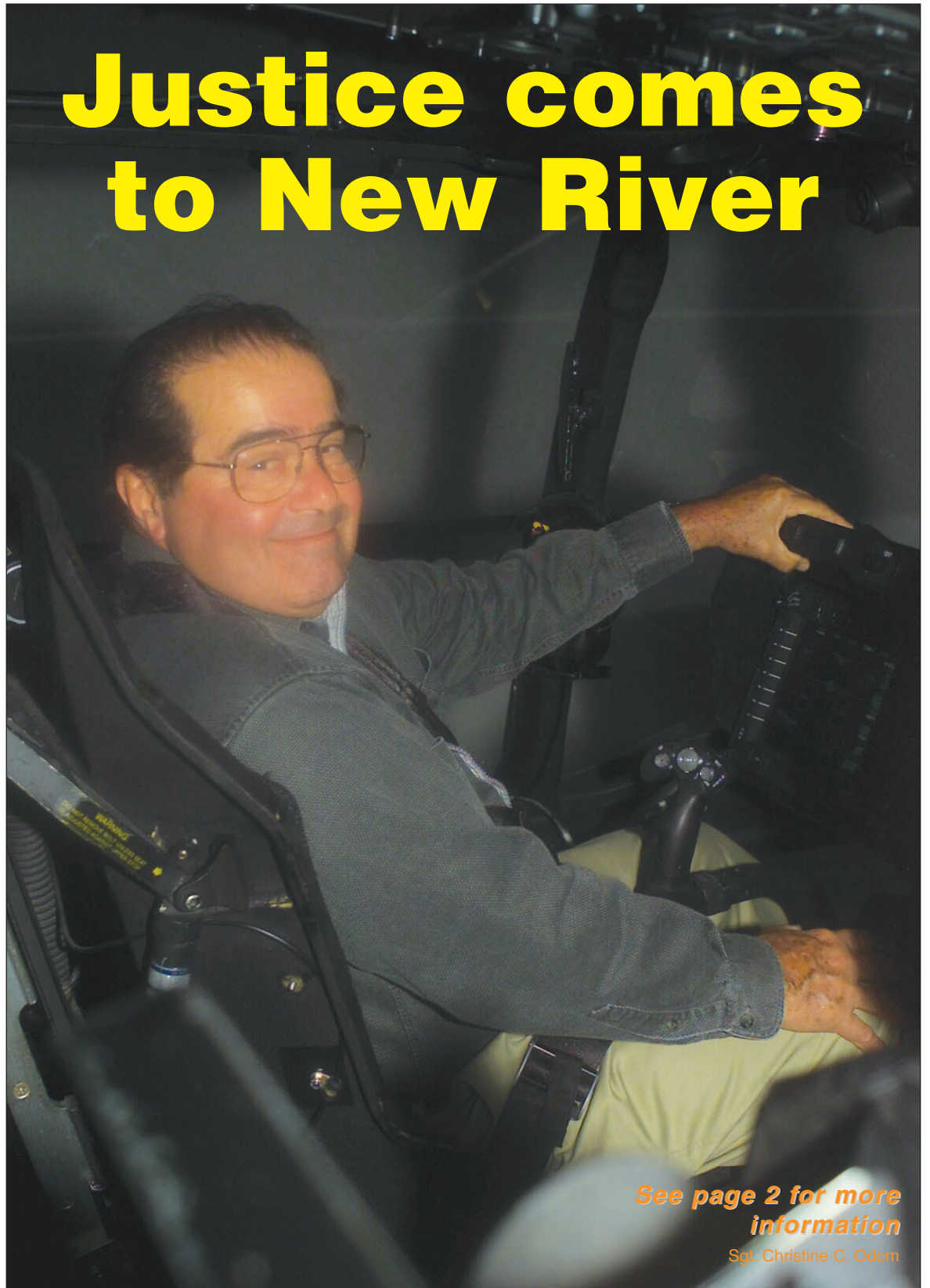
**Instructor of the Year
chosen.....Pg. 6**



**Welders make sparks
fly.....Pg. 8**



Justice comes to New River



*See page 2 for more
information*

Sgt. Christine C. Odom

FLIGHTLINES

Alcohol Awareness

The Single Marine Program is hosting an Alcohol Awareness Week starting April 3 - 9.

Beginning April 3, the SMP and the Marine Corps Community Services' athletic department are holding a basketball challenge to kick off the SMP alcohol awareness week. The Sergeants Major 3 on 3 basketball challenge starts at 9 a.m.

The SMP is asking each unit aboard the Station to enter a team. Registration is \$30 per team with the winning team receiving a cash prize. The second and third place teams will receive trophies, and every participating member will receive a T-shirt. There will be a five-man limit for each team.

On April 6, Rick Barnes, a professional alcohol awareness speaker, who is a part of the collegiate tour, will be speaking at the Station Theater. There will be presentations at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Every weekday between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Station dining facility or Marine Corps Exchange, there will be an alcohol awareness booth with drunk goggles, flyers and other materials.

For more information, contact Beth Birchfield at birchfielda@usmc-mccs.org.

Travel Expenses

Marines on official travel orders should not pay for the travel expenses of other members who are also on travel orders.

Any individual performing official travel, under travel orders, is entitled to full travel and transportation allowances.

Travel orders issued to an individual is the tool that supports reimbursement of travel and transportation related expenses. It does not support the reimbursement for expenses incurred for other travelers also on official orders.

No one should be asked or directed to charge the travel expenses of others on their GTCC.

If in an emergency situation, a member is forced to use their GTCC to pay for travel related expenses for another traveler, or a group of travelers, and there were no other options available at the time and place of travel then that member may be reimbursed their expenses when filing the travel voucher settlement.

To receive full reimbursement, the member must have his orders properly modified by the order-issuing official to authorize the expenses.

Technology Show

Come see the latest in technology and talk to knowledgeable representatives March 31 at the Camp Lejeune Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Club from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The free event is being hosted by the Business Logistics Support and Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Association and will include:

- Laptop/Notebook computers
- Integrated Networks & Cabling Solutions
- Computer-based training
- Multimedia software
- High-level equipment simulation

For additional information, call (888) 282-2262, e-mail to info@atc-expo.com or visit the association's Web site at <http://www.atcexpo.com>

Volunteers Needed

The American Red Cross needs volunteers to help brief Marines at New River and Camp Geiger on emergency communications as well as volunteer activities. Training will be provided.

For more information on what you can do to help, call Chuck Van Horne at 451-2173.

Home Depot Helps Spouses

Home Depot stores, through volunteer program "Project Home Front," are providing up to \$1,000 for home repairs to families whose military sponsors are deployed.

To apply online, visit their Web site at <http://www.projecthomefront.org>.

Scholarships Available

Sprint Scholarships of \$1,000 are available to active duty military and their dependents stationed at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River. The student must be attending or accepted to a four-year college or university within the state of North Carolina.

Applicants must be full-time students.

Details and scholarship applications are available at the Guidance Department of area high schools, Coastal Carolina Community College, and Marine Corps Community Services Command and Transition Support Division.

Deadline for submission of applications for the 2004-2005 college year is April 15.

For additional information contact the special projects coordinator, Cathy

Simonoff, at 451-3212, extension 227.

Uniform Update

According to MARAD-MIN 112/04, effective Oct. 1, 2004, the optional black/green boot program is cancelled.

The only authorized boot, other than safety or special issue boots, will be the Marine Corps Combat Boots. In order to capitalize on different and new sole technologies, the Commandant of the Marine Corps has authorized a limited optional MCCB program.

For questions or more information contact Mary K. Boyt, project officer, Marine Corps Uniform Board at (703) 432-4607 or e-mail boytmk@mcsc.usmc.mil.

Women's History

There will be a Women's History Month celebration held at the Station Theater March 31 at 3 p.m.

The guest speaker for this event will be Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Krusa-Dosin, Marine Corps Public Affairs director.

The event is free to all military and civilian personnel. The uniform is proper civilian attire.

On the cover

The honorable Justice Antonin Scalia of the U. S. Supreme Court visits New River on March 12.

While here, Scalia tours Marine Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204, the MV-22 Oprey. Scalia also takes the opportunity to fly in the Osprey simulator.

This visit was part of a two-day evolution also including Camp Lejeune.



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

'War Eagles', general officers discuss challenge of command

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

The "War Eagles" of Marine Aircraft Group-29 hosted professional military education here for the field grade officers in the Group on March 12.

Although PME seminars for field grade officers are held quarterly at MAG-29, this wasn't an ordinary one.

Col. Mark D. Mahaffey, MAG-29 commanding officer, invited Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation, and Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Conant, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, to discuss the challenge of command with the MAG-29 majors and lieutenant colonels.

"I try to orchestrate PME for field grade officers to provide exposure to what they'll be dealing with as they progress in their careers," said Mahaffey, who hails from Columbus, Ohio.

The foundation of the discussion was the book "The Challenge of Command" by Roger H. Nye. Each of the field grade officers in the Group wrote a book review, which Mahaffey forwarded to the general officers "so each has a feel of key things to discuss."

According to Mahaffey, a seminar of this nature helps the majors start making plans to command at

the squadron level and provides lieutenant colonels with an opportunity to query people who have commanded a MAG and a Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"I think it's a common interest," said Conant, a former resident of Jackson, Mich. "We all aspire at command at some point in our career."

From 1992 to 1993, Conant was the leading "Warrior" of Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167.

He later commanded MAG-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan.

Helland, recently nominated by the president of the United States for appointment to the rank of major general, commanded the "Iron Horses" of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 from 1991 to 1993. In 1996, he assumed command of the 22nd MEU.

"Hopefully, I can provide the seminar with my experiences of the good things and bad things," said the Deep River Falls, Minn., native. "If they're going to take anything, take the good things and develop into solid leaders of Marines."

The general officer's visit to the MAG-29 field grade officers served as well, according to Conant, "to broaden their horizons on what we see at Headquarters Marine Corps and give them a snapshot of what we do."

"We're very impressed and very proud of the

way the Marines are performing in the Global War on Terrorism," said Helland. "Anything we can do to improve their mission is our mission."



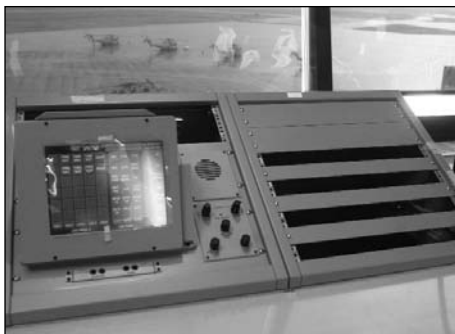
Sgt. Juan Vara

Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation, talks to Marines and Sailors of Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group-29, at a breakfast held at the MAG on March 12. Helland was invited by the "War Eagles" to a seminar for field grade officers in the Group.

SPAWAR breathes life into new tower

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Just like the old saying "out with the old, in with the new," the Station's Air Traffic Control section is in the process of moving on to bigger and better things, including a new state of the



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

The Enhanced Terminal Voice Switches in the new tower will be flat "touch-screens."

art control tower.

The new tower, which is approximately 122 feet above ground and the tallest building structure in Onslow County, is scheduled to be fully operational by April 2004 thanks to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR), Charleston, S.C.

"SPAWAR designs, builds, tests, fields and supports many of the frontline command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems in use today or planned for the future," according to the internet source <http://sscc.spawar.navy.mil/>.

As stated in the "Base Electronic Systems Engineering Plans for Air Traffic Control," written by Harlen P. Wood Jr., SPAWAR representative, "The original tower was built in the mid-1950s to be used as a parachute-drying tower. It was converted into an ATCT

shortly thereafter."

Now, more than 30 years later, SPAWAR is bringing to New River a much larger, more modern and high tech control tower.

"We are modernizing everything," said Wood, native of Charleston, S.C. "The push-button systems in the old tower will be flat, touch-screens in the new one."

Not only will the Marines benefit from the upgraded systems, but they will also have better training facilities.

With four positions including ground control, local control, flight control and a supervisor, not to mention having a trainee next to each qualified Marine, the workspace was tight in the old tower.

"As an air traffic control Marine, you must never ever quit training," said Gunnery Sgt. Jack P. Sizemore, ATCT chief of West Alexandria, Ohio. "The

new tower will increase our training capabilities giving us more room for on-the-job training."

The new tower, which has been behind in construction for much of its evolution, is closing in on its completion date.

"The tower will be fully operational when SPAWAR leaves, and we will have Marines in training before and after this happens," said Sizemore.

Wood agreed with Sizemore that everyone will be properly trained on the new equipment.

"It's the same as when an air traffic controller changes duty stations; they must be trained in order to adapt," said Wood. "We will provide training to the Marines before it is turned over completely."

The turnover date between SPAWAR and ATC is tentatively scheduled for March 29.

'Iron Horse' returns to old stomping ground

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Many spectators gathered in amazement around Aiken Senior High School's baseball field in South Carolina to watch a crew from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 land a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter on the field March 11.

The helicopter display was only a small portion of HMH-461's visit. The squadron's executive officer, Maj. Robert D. Pridgen, attended Aiken's Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps pass-in-review ceremony, which consisted of a uniform inspection, platoon drill competition, presentation of Colors, awards and pass-in-review.

Pridgen, a lieutenant colonel select, along with Navy Cmdr. Gary Edwards, commanding officer of Naval Security Group, Fort Gordon, Ga., were the inspecting officers for the uniform inspection. Veterans from the Marine Corps League judged the drill competition.

"Every other year, the cadets are inspected in their Service Dress Blue uniform if they're an E-7 or above and Winter Blue uniform if E-6 or below," said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Turner, NJROTC instructor from Aiken.

Uniforms inspected model Navy service attire. Approximately 98 cadets participated in the inspection, and about a dozen of them were recognized for their overall exemplary appearance during the inspection. In addition, Pridgen, a native of Aiken, also presented the cadets with an "Iron Horse" coin.

According to Turner, the NJROTC program began

at the school in 1969 and is comprised of retired Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps officers who provide instruction for cadets.

"The biggest thing the program does for kids is it exposes them to a military life or regiment, which gives them an early opportunity to learn leadership and how to become a good citizen," said Pridgen who, back in his heyday, was also an NJROTC cadet at Aiken High.

Like the military, the program teaches cadets about accountability, paying attention to detail and discipline, added Turner. There is a miniature basic training camp cadets may also attend to improve their leadership skills and expand their knowledge beyond civilian society.

After the ceremony concluded, the cadets were given the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Super Stallion with the rest of the "Iron Horse" crew, 1st Lt. Thomas N. Trimble, adjutant and unit information officer from Baltimore; Gunnery Sgt. Beau Berg, flightline from McHenry, Ill.; and Staff Sgt. Judson C. Newman, maintenance control from

Marquette, Mich.

"It's not everyday you get to show off your aircraft to the kids," added Trimble.

This was the first time the crew attended an NJROTC event, and they said it was a great opportunity to represent the squadron and the Marine Corps.

"It gave me a chance to get back to the school and show some of the kids that you don't have to stay local; there is more out there," concluded Pridgen.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Turner (left), Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, and Maj. Robert D. Pridgen, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 executive officer, inspect cadets in their Service Dress Blue and Winter Blue uniforms March 11.

Wachovia donates books to students

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Wachovia bank employees delivered more than 350 books to Delalio Elementary students March 12.

Carole Roy, wealth management administrator for Wachovia, and Kristy Davis, vice president of community affairs, read to students from the book "The Wise Woman and Her Secret," by Eve Merriam. They traveled from class to class during Wachovia's Reading First program, and each student in the classroom received one of the hardback books valued at \$16 per book.

"This is great for all the students here," said Carol Batchelor, Delalio Elementary principal. "Our policy is to read to our students out loud at least five times a day. They also get to take these books home. These books are theirs, not the schools."

According to Wachovia's Web site, the Reading First program was developed in partnership with the Children's Literacy Initiative in 1997. Every year, Wachovia employees read to children in primary education classrooms once a week for 20 weeks, then donate the books to the classrooms. Since its inception, Reading First has established nearly 8,000 partnerships with local elementary school classrooms. In partnership with Scholastic Inc., the bank has donated approximately 350,000 books to classroom libraries.

Every student who enrolls at Delalio will receive a copy of the book, said Roy.

All Wachovia employees are also allowed to read at the local schools for four hours during their normal work day, per week for up to 20 hours.

"This is just one of the ways the bank gives back to the community," said Roy.



Sgt. Wayne Campbell

Kristy Davis, vice president of community affairs at Wachovia, reads "The Wise Woman and Her Secret" by Eve Merriam to fourth and fifth-graders at Delalio Elementary on March 12.

CO commends Marines for heroic actions

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Two of the Station's air traffic control Marines received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic achievements in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during a ceremony at Station Headquarters on March 4.

The medals were presented, along with combat distinguishing devices, to Staff Sgt. James T. Wentling and Cpl. Steven G. Pennington, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, for their actions while assigned to Marine Mobile Air Traffic Control Team, Marine Air Group Detachment, Command Element, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), during a deployment to Iraq from April 11 to May 3.

"The most important thing to me wasn't receiving the awards. It was the camaraderie," said Wentling, a native of Littleton, Co.

During the tour, both Wentling and Pennington were tasked with clearing a runway of foreign objects and debris to make the Al Mosul airfield capable of sustaining rotary and fixed wing aircraft with combat operations.

According to Pennington, of Rockville, Md., it was a long process to clear the runway and also provide security.

"I was thankful I remembered some of my training. It was also a big help that Staff Sgt. Wentling was there as a guide and mentor," said Pennington.

While operating under enemy fire, the two Marines not only cleared the runway of debris, but also kept it operational until follow-on forces could fully secure the area.

"We helped prove, without a doubt, the amphibious strike force capability of a MEU. To be able to hit an objective, beat it and move on, when our ship was thousands of miles away ... that's just a little of what we could do," said Wentling.



Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer, awards the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Staff Sgt. James T. Wentling and Cpl. Steven G. Pennington for their heroic actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fietz takes instructor of year

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

Staff Sgt. Russell E. Fietz, a T58 jet engine intermediate level instructor with Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit, New River, was recognized as the squadron's instructor of the year at a ceremony held outside the CH-53 Maintenance Training Unit building March 3.

Acknowledged for displaying outstanding leadership, technical expertise and instructional skills, Fietz is responsible for providing enlisted maintenance training and continuing the process of transforming entry level Marines and Sailors into future leaders of aviation maintenance.

"I'm excited," said Fietz, a native of Olney, Texas. "We have a lot of good instructors here, and it's an honor to work with them and be chosen as instructor of the year."

According to Maj. Paul K. Little, NAMTRA MAR Unit executive officer and Summerville, S.C., native, there are three MTUs within NAMTRA MAR Unit. Every quarter, each MTU conducts an instructor of the quarter board to select the most qualified and deserving instructor. Near the end of the year, the officer-in-charge of every MTU conducts an instructor of the year board. The MTU instructor of the year then competes to be the squadron's instructor of the year.

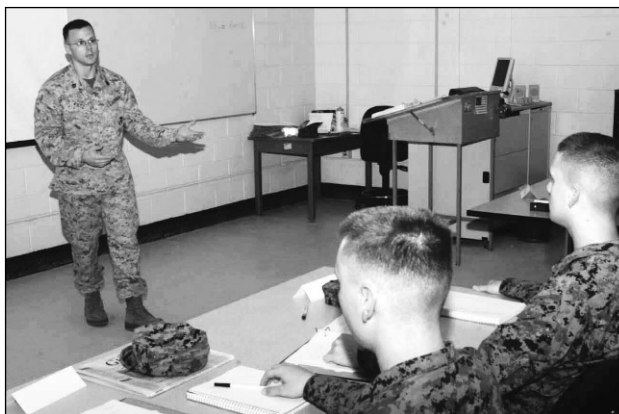
"Staff Sergeant Fietz definitely deserves it," said Pfc. Brandon C. Darke, a T58 jet engine mechanic student from Muskegon, Mich. "He knows his field very well and is an outstanding instructor. When we're not in class, we're free to ask questions, anything about the Marine Corps, and he's always there to help us."

Pfc. Matthew C. Harum, a T58 jet engine mechanic student who hails from Wenatchee, Wash., said Fietz possesses a unique training technique that helps the

students have a better understanding on the subject being taught.

"He makes a comfortable class atmosphere by making you feel like it's all right to ask questions," said Pfc. Kenneth D. Morgan, a T58 jet engine mechanic student from Houston. "Also, he freely passes on to us his knowledge about the Marine Corps."

In April 2003, Feitz won honors as the CH-46 MTU instructor of the quarter and later took the squadron instructors' top award. He said this was accomplished through constantly staying in the classroom, teaching class after class, ensuring his students obtained the most knowledge, staying up-to-date on



Sgt. Juan Vara

Staff Sgt. Russell E. Fietz, a T58 jet engine intermediate level instructor at the Naval Air Maintenance Training and Marine Unit, teaches a class inside the CH-46 Maintenance Training Unit. Fietz, of Olney, Texas, was acknowledged as the squadron's instructor of the year during a March 3 ceremony.

his professional military education and maintaining a good physical fitness test on his own time.

"I was also constantly trying to improve the training for the students and for the staff," he said. "Always gave it 110 percent."

As the winner of the squadron's instructor of the year award, Fietz represented his unit at a Naval Education and Training Command enlisted instructor of the year board where he competed against all Navy and Marine Corps aviation instructors.

"The Navy won that one, as they generally do every year," said Lt. Col. Antonio J. Cerrillo, NAMTRA MAR Unit commanding officer and Milwaukee, Wis., native. "Staff Sergeant Fietz was recognized as our instructor of the year, but he couldn't do it without the endorsements of the students. The students here are not afraid to write critiques, and I want them to continue to do that."

According to Cerrillo, there's not a class that goes by when the students don't write great compliments about their instructors.

"They always write about how great they are," added Cerrillo. "When the students tell us that, we see the unit is well led. It is not led by the commanding officer, it's led by the instructors."

Per NAMTRA MAR Unit's Squadron Order 1650.1, instructors serve as role models for students by being top performers, professional in bearing and appearance, physically fit and dedicated to serving their country. Selection as instructor of the quarter and instructor of the year provides recognition for exceptional performance and also helps communicate to the Fleet Marine Force the significant career enhancement opportunities of duty as an instructor can provide.

Among the perks that come with winning the instructor of the year are a 96-hour liberty pass and no squadron duty for six months.

Airfield driving: vehicles and aircraft sharing asphalt

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Driving on the Station airfield has safety requirements that call for continuous vigilance by all drivers.

According to Staff Sgt. Roy E.

Johnson, Station airfield operations chief from Thomson, Ga., all personnel must obtain an airfield driver's license before driving a vehicle in the airfield operating area.

"We give classes every Wednesday at 9 a.m.," said Johnson.

"We can also hold special classes if there is a need."

According to Johnson, when driving on the airfield, communications with ground control is required to operate a vehicle in a movement area, runway or taxi way.

"Radios can be checked out daily from operations,"

said Johnson. "When a radio is picked up, a call sign should be given."

When operating a vehicle in a movement area, the driver should understand the instructions from the tower before proceeding; look both ways before crossing a runway; give way to aircraft and emergency vehicles; and drivers should not exceed 15 mph or 5 mph if towing an aircraft.

If communication with the tower is lost, the driver should exit the runway or taxi way, point the vehicle at the tower and flash the lights. The tower will give instructions with a light gun or send an escort vehicle, explained Johnson.

Along with communications, all vehicles must have a yellow beacon or an orange and white checkered flag. Drivers must stay on the far right side

of all taxi ways, and they must not drive under any part of an aircraft.

Non-movement areas, such as aircraft parking areas, are not controlled by the tower, but do require vigilance to ensure a collision with aircraft and rotors are avoided.

According to Johnson, all vehicles should operate on paved surfaces, but if required to drive on unpaved surfaces, the driver is required to stop afterward and check vehicle tires for foreign-object debris wedged in the treads.

"It is the responsibility of each driver to be alert and collect any FOD found while operating on the airfield," said Johnson. "If any manmade objects or tools are found, they should be brought to the operations building."

For more information on airfield driving, contact Johnson at 449-6312.



Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

Airfield driving requires continuous vigilance.

Commissioner reads to 'dolphins'

Onslow County commissioner Fred Holt, a Richlands, N.C., native, reads the book "Lost and Found" by Mark Teague to second-grade "dolphins" at Delalio Elementary School on March 2 during Read Across America. The program began in 1998 as a way to excite kids about reading. The National Education Association's Read Across America has become the nation's largest reading program and occurs each year near Dr. Seuss' birthday.



Sgt. Juan Vara



Marine Corps welders carry torch

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

"One of the first things young Marines ask when they come to our airframes shop is 'When can I go to the welding school?'" explained Sgt. Kevin J. Truxall, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 airframes mechanic and certified welder.

The training these Marines receive helps better prepare them for some of the obstacles they will see in the workplace.

At MALS-26, the welders are faced everyday with a wide variety of mission-essential tasks that other shops highly depend on.

"We weld heavy duty ramps for loading helicopters into C-5s; we make ordnance trailers, fast-rope frames for recon Marines and weld other small avionics and engine components just to name a few," said Truxall of Eloiira, Ohio. "Probably some of the most common things we weld are exhaust systems on the 'birds.'"

These tasks can vary from touch-ups to sensitive repairs on oil tanks, which are paper-thin. In the long run, the welder's ability can determine whether or not an engine goes down.

Marines interested in this line of work can expect to spend at least 52 days in their school at MCAS Cherry Point just to reach the first certification. A trip back to Cherry Point is required each year to keep current.

"From what I've seen, the hardest thing to adapt to is going from working in a perfect school environment to working on old dirty gear, where it is hard to find things such as cracks," said Truxall.

According to the internet source www.usmilitary.about.com, "Aircraft welders fabricate and repair aircraft metals through basic welding."

It goes on to say, "This military occupational specialty will be assigned as a skill designator MOS only to qualified aircraft structures mechanics."

Several requirements need to be met in order to tackle this field.

"The Marine must be qualified as an aircraft structures mechanic, have vision better than 20/30 for long distance with good depth perception, must have normal color vision and must also complete the appropriate formal school of instruction," the internet source stated.

Safety hazards are also an issue to expect.

On any given day, welders

here deal with noise hazards, flashburn and avoiding electrocution.

"Welding is a job where you must pay attention to the safeties, use your brain and a lot of times be creative," said Truxall. "We stay very busy because there's always a need for things to be welded."



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Sgt. Kevin J. Truxall, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 airframes mechanic and native of Eloiira, Ohio, welds a CH-53E Super Stallion auxiliary powerplant exhaust March 17.

Moving up in the MCMAP world

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
correspondent

"The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program or MCMAP, as Marines commonly call it, is a combination of the three basic pillars of the Marine Corps

known as body, mind and spirit," said Gunnery Sgt. Gauntlet M. Nesbeth, the staff noncommissioned officer of the Family Services Center and Hackensack, N.J., native.

There are five belts in MCMAP, but the first three are tan, gray and

green. Marines of any rank can get their tan and gray belts; only lance corporals or above can qualify for green.

The tan belt is easily attained with no prerequisites. Marines must complete 27.5 training hours and seven sustainment hours in order to earn the belt. According to Sgt. David J. Ault, the data networking technician with Station Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron from Oologah, Okla., the techniques are easily learned for most, and the

physical demands aren't all that high.

Gray is the next belt and is achieved through 29 training hours and 14 sustainment hours. This belt can be earned only after completion of the tan belt syllabus and sustaining moves. Gray belt techniques build on those already established.

Every non-infantry, combat arms Marine's goal should be to gain a green belt, according to Marine Corps Order 1500.54a. For this belt, Marines must have 30 hours of training and 21 hours of supportive training. This is also the first belt someone may put an instructor stripe on.

The green belt instructor stripe is earned through a three-week course at Camp Geiger, or anywhere else there is a martial arts instruction facility.

The first week of this course is spent relearning the tan belt syllabus.

The soon-to-be instructors are then tested on every move they have learned. The student must pass with a 95 percent or higher to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that he knows the syllabus, said

Sgt. Joseph Mundo, automotive mechanic with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Truck Company, Camp Lejeune from Bronx, N.Y.

The next week, trainees move on to the gray-belt syllabus. All participants must have at least 95 percent when tested on all gray-belt techniques learned. The gray-belt test also consists of five tan-belt moves learned.

The third and final week is entirely devoted to the green-belt syllabus. This belt must also be mastered with a 95 percent or more to receive the instructor stripe. There are a total of 10 gray-and tan-belt moves incorporated into this test to prove that all belts have been mastered, added Mundo.

Everyone can get something from this course whether it's better fighting skills or a better understanding of how the Marine Corps works.

"That is why we have this type of training; to build better unit cohesion and help keep the younger Marines motivated to keep training," concluded Mundo.



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt

Sgt. Amanda G. Behlmann, logistics clerk for H&HS, spars with Gunnery Sgt. Gauntlet M. Nesbeth, Family Services Center staff non-commissioned officer.



1st Lt. Shawn H. Daley

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 give the thumbs up in preparation to being lifted during a SPIE rigging exercise March 12.

MWSS-272 Motor 'T' Marines get hooked

1st Lt. Shawn H. Daley
contributor

Motor Transport Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 here participated in some unusual training March 12.

Instead of the usual oil change, tire rotation or operation of vehicles, these "Motor 'T' bubbas," put on harnesses, protective glasses and Kevlar helmets, and participated in SPIE rigging.

According to the United States Navy SEAL Web site, SPIE rigging stands for special purpose insertion and extraction.

This technique is used to extract troops from a landing zone in an expedient manner.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Cpl. Jason A. Wagner, Motor "T" tool room noncommissioned officer and native of Delphas, Ohio.

Initially, the Marines were a little nervous, but once they took their first ride, they were hooked, literally.

SPIE rigging is a combination of sliding down a rope hung out of a helicopter and then dangling until the pilot finds a secure location to make a tactical insertion of the troops.

"This is what the Marine Corps is all about," exclaimed Sgt. Chris W. Petty, Motor "T" company squad leader from Austin, Texas.

Marines who normally conduct SPIE rigging are in the Explosive Ordnance Disposal military occupational specialty, but the "Untouchables" were given the opportunity to take part in this training to allow them to become more combat capable.

Every Marine in the division has become better equipped to fight and protect our nation, and they have earned my utmost respect and admiration. We are known for leaving our footprints across the globe due to our successful efforts toward providing support to various units or squadrons. It's what we do best.

Our warriors are going to continue to attack an aggressive training schedule throughout this year, which is to the satisfaction of our command.

"It calls for a lot of hard work and determination, but it helps the Marines to be more attentive to time management in order to accomplish unit support missions and their training goals simultaneously," said Lt. Col. Joseph K. Haviland, MWSS-272 commanding officer and Philadelphia native.



1st Lt. Shawn H. Daley

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 are lifted by a CH-46E Sea Knight Helicopter during a SPIE rigging exercise March 12.

Marine Corps reading review: Starship Troopers

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Ever wonder what military operations are going to be like in the future? A lot of books and movies have touched on this, playing our imaginations out with huge space battles using amazing starships and weapons, but Robert A. Heinlein's "Starship Troopers" takes a very different and unique approach. By going into the mind of a futuristic "grunt," we get to see what ground fighting and squad-based tactics might be like in our own future.

The book's unlikely "hero," Juan Rico, tells us his story, starting as a high school kid wondering about life after school.

Though seemingly destined for Harvard and running his father's business, Rico plays with the idea of serving in the global-spanning Federal Reserves, the government's military.

When family troubles arise, Rico chooses to set out on his own and follows his friends into the military. The hard truth of government service strikes quickly as Rico realizes that all he is qualified to do is "mobile infantry."

Rico is then put through what is supposed to be one of the toughest "boot camps" in military history, training the young recruit in everything from equipment maintenance to how to use hand-held nuclear weapons.

I tend to think that the principles behind the mobile infantry in the book are a direct reflection of

our own. Using naval support, the troopers were dropped into combat zones, performing a wide variety of operations in the quickest and most efficient manner possible, which is exactly what Marines have done recently in Afganistan, Iraq and Haiti.

Heinlein uses Rico's own words, including his thoughts and feelings, to give us an account of what happens during the story.

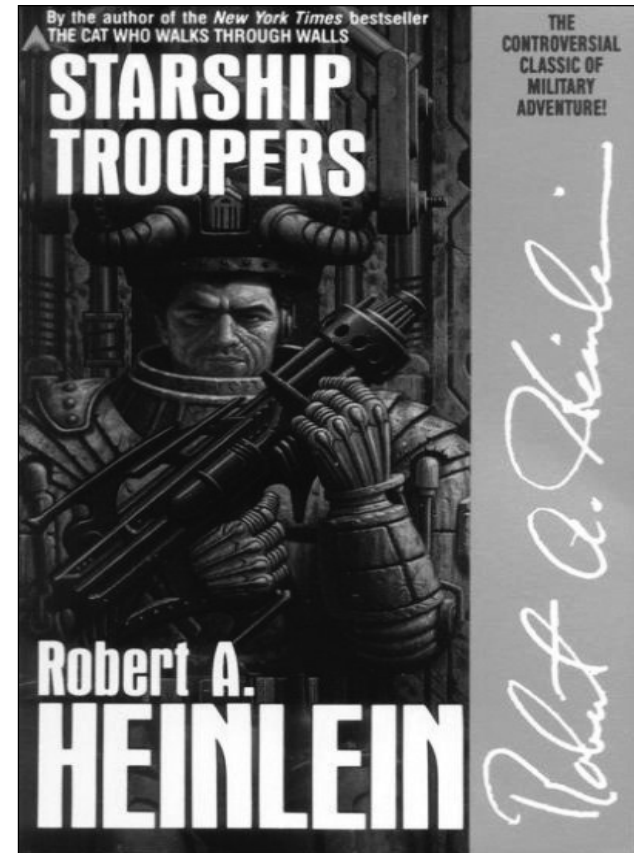
With such opinionated views of a grunt in the field and the way life looks from the bottom of the rank structure, the narrator gives Rico an added sense of depth and character not usually found in fiction.

The focus on "a grunt's life" is the best part of the novel. Rico doesn't save the world or defeat an ultimate evil. He doesn't have extraordinary powers or abilities. He is simply a professional soldier, one whose only real concerns are accomplishing the mission, taking care of his brother-in-arms and not "buying the farm" himself.

It's that same sense of commitment and dedication that is the backbone of the Marine Corps.

I believe this book represents a possible future for the Marine Corps. Looking beyond oversized bugs and space aliens, I can easily see the Marine Corps filling this billet if and when space warfare ever becomes possible.

Policy and doctrine aside, this is a great book for anyone to read, much less a Marine. Entertaining, easy to read and close to home, "Starship Troopers" strikes me as the kind of book any Marine would enjoy.



Starship Troopers. By Robert A. Heinlein.
Published by Ace Books in 1987. The book has 263 pages.

Recon sergeant's view on leadership

Sgt. Will J. Welch
contributor

The Marine Corps prides itself on inspirational sayings such as "first to fight," "lead from the front," "tip of the spear," and "first in, last out." These sayings help me identify with the kind of leadership the Marine Corps has been instilling in me and every recruit and candidate throughout its history. The Marine Corps instills leadership by building a foundation made up of the fourteen leadership traits.

Looking at these traits, three are identifiable as the core traits a leader must possess in order to build a solid foundation. The three traits that form the foundation of strong leadership are initiative, integrity and judgment.

The first trait a young Marine striving to become a leader needs to possess, and more importantly demonstrate, is initiative. By taking the initiative, a young Marine sets himself apart from

his peers and begins to be recognized as a leader. Marines exhibiting initiative are also typically forward thinking, motivated and determined to achieve.

Demonstrating good initiative is invaluable to a leader and his subordinates in successful mission accomplishment and task completion.

Utilizing initiative to complete tasks handed down from higher headquarters causes a leader to be synonymous with not only mission accomplishment, but also mission success in the eyes of his commanders. The "go to" Marine. However, a leader should never misuse initiative to accomplish a mission if it imperils good judgment. Good initiative coupled with poor judgment will ultimately lead to mission failure.

The second trait a leader must possess is integrity. Integrity is one of the most difficult traits for a leader to develop since it cannot be taught from a book. Integrity is innate in strong lead-

ers, is never compromised and inspires men like nothing else does.

Integrity is essentially honesty and adherence to a high moral standard. Integrity earns a leader trust and respect of both subordinates and superiors.

This trust and respect enables a leader to more effectively lead, conduct training exercises, build unit cohesion and selflessly develop subordinates into leaders. In effect, a leader with integrity, who also has the trust and respect of his commander, has the stronger fighting unit.

Finally, the most important leadership trait a leader must possess and hone is good judgment.

A leader must use good judgment to make timely, well-considered decisions, weighing all the factors and information available, regarding the issue at hand. A leader must also have the ability to realize how the decision he makes today will ultimately affect his unit, his men and the Corps tomorrow.

In any situation, poor judgment can lead to mission failure and unnecessary hardship and death. Great leaders are not so overzealous in their initiative that it in turn hinders good judgment.

Integrity, initiative and good judgment are words that cause me to reflect on all the great leaders who preceded me. It is imperative to ensure that we safeguard and uphold the impeccable standards set by our predecessors. A great leader must confidently display many traits in any given situation; however, without integrity, initiative and good judgment, a leader will inevitably fail.

Today's Marine Corps must maintain the demonstrated effective leadership it is renowned for.

Sgt. Will J. Welch, class commander for Sergeant's Course, Class 2-04. His essay was recognized as the best leadership essay submitted from his class and will be forwarded to Headquarters Marine Corps.

Court-martial

A Marine from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 was found guilty at a special court-martial March 10 for one specification of Article 81, conspiracy to commit larceny; one specification of Article 86, absence without leave; two specifications of Article 91, willful disobedience; and one specification of Article 92, disobeying a lawful order.

Punishment: Bad conduct discharge, 90 days confinement, reduction to E-1 and forfeiture of \$700 per month for three months.

**Check out the revised
New River Web site at
www.newriver.usmc.mil**



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 rush into a building to find and bring down a sniper as part of Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) training held at Combat Town aboard Camp Lejeune on March 20.



Lance Cpl. Zachary Frank

Marines escorting a convoy keep a group of protesters at bay while another protester aims a M136 AT4 rocket launcher at the Marines during MWSS-272's MOUT training at Combat Town aboard Camp Lejeune on March 20.

'Untouchables' more combat capable

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

During a two-day field evolution, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, Motor Transport Division conducted Military Operations on Urban Terrain training, Saturday and Sunday, to improve their Marines' warfighting skills.

"It's a good change from our everyday work routine," said Cpl. Brandon P. Hammontree, MT mechanic. "It also gives us the opportunity to cross train a little bit."

This was the first field exercise the Warner Robins, Ga., native participated in since the "Untouchables" returned from Kuwait last June.

Approximately 65 warriors took part in the exercise, 47 of whom assumed the role of infantrymen, and 18 played protesters. The event was conducted at Combat Town aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune.

This urban setting was ideal for the Marines to train in because at any time during combat, they could be assigned a mission to secure a building or home, and they needed to know the proper procedures to function in that environment, explained 1st Lt. Shawn H. Daley, division commander.

The infantrymen were geared up in the usual 782 gear: Kevlar helmets, fragmentation jackets, load-bearing vests and canteens. In addition, the Marines wore the Multipurpose Integrated Laser Engagement System gear to bring more realism to the training, added Daley, who is from Manassas, Va.

The MILES-2000 gear consists of sensors worn on the helmet (halo) and around the upper body (vest). A laser transmitter is also mounted on each M16A2 service rifle and is coded to fire an invisible, optically safe laser for a distance replicating the rifle's maximum effective range.

Protesters, on the other hand, had it a little easier since their uniform for the exercise was civilian attire. The mission of the protestors was to act as aggressors when encountering infantrymen as they provided security for the convoys. To also simulate unexpected dangerous conditions, the division had Explosive Ordnance Disposal plant six unexploded ordnances (UXO), which resemble grenades, mines or bombs in the area around the training site, clarified Daley.

Other ammunition and weapons used during the evolution included dummy rounds for the rifles, M240G medium machine guns, an M136

AT4 rocket launcher and MK 19 40 mm machine guns, which were mounted on 7-ton trucks. A total of 17 vehicles were deployed to Combat Town as part of the convoy.

According to Daley, the Marines carried out various real-world missions to include convoy security, reaction to sniper fire, coordinating searches, riot control, contact from the front/back and left/right.

"The training is intense," said Sgt. Alfred R. Bela, MT mechanic from Fort Valley, Ga. "It was a little more than what I expected."

With little down time in the schedule, Marines still continued to push through the training with enthusiasm and eagerness, stated Bela, who believed this training was also a way to build more leadership, not just for the noncommissioned officers, but for the junior Marines as well.

"It's no longer 'if,' it's a matter of 'when,'" said Lt. Col. Joseph K. Haviland, who hails from Philadelphia. "When the call comes, I can say with confidence, the Marines are ready."

The "Untouchables" of MWSS-272 will continue to apply this earnestness toward warfighting until they reach their goal of being more combat capable, concluded Daley.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Cpl. Eric S. Donaldson, a logistics vehicle operator for MWSS-272 from Hanover, Jamaica, provides security for a convoy traveling into Combat Town. (Inset) The squad provides security for the convoy.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

A sniper locks his sights on the approaching Marines during MOUT training.

Roto View

What do you think of the Marine Corps' involvement in Haiti?



"It gives everyone another example of how the Marine Corps reacts on such short notice. We're also proving that we're not just warfighters, but peacekeepers as well."

1st Lt. Danny J. Cohlmeier,
operations,
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263
Waterloo, Ill.



"Somebody's got to do it. If I was still on active duty, I guess I'd be over there with them doing my job all over again."

William E. King,
retired sergeant major
Bellfonte, Penn.

"It sounds more like an internal issue to me. What business is it of ours? But, I'm heading over there, and I'm not really thinking about it, because I know I'll be taking care of my family and America no matter what we're doing."

Lance Cpl. Romualdo M. Ruiz III,
flightline mechanic,
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264
Waipahu, Hawaii



"There is a lot going on, but I don't know if I believe we should really be there. It's something that might be better solved by them and not us. Sending Marines in might be an overreaction."

Pvt. Tim J. Shultz,
School of Infantry student
Richfield Springs, N.Y.



"I believe that the Marine Corps and NATO (North American Treaty Organization) as a whole should be more involved in world affairs. Hopefully we can help make Haiti a better country."

Cpl. Donald E. Stone,
hazardous materials noncommissioned officer-in-charge,
Marine Wing Support Squadron-272
Hot Springs, Ark.



"If we are there to protect democracy, then we should be there. And I can safely say that Marines will get the job done."

1st Sgt. Daryl C. Watkins,
Charlie Company 1st Sgt.,
School of Infantry
Rock Hill, S.C.

John Gunn's sports highlights

Marine veteran Davis succeeds Marine veteran Hampton as coach

The local Jacksonville Raiders named John Davis as coach of the fifth-year semi-professional football team after performing as a top assistant the previous four years.

Davis, Jacksonville's defensive coordinator during the Raiders' inaugural season before taking over as offensive coordinator for the next three, assumes the job after Marine veteran Greg Hampton stepped down to concentrate more on his new position as football coach at Jones Senior High in Trenton, N.C.

Davis will also follow Hampton to Jones Senior as the Trojans' defensive coordinator and baseball coach, the Jacksonville Daily News reported.

"I am excited and am looking forward to the challenge," Davis, a retired master sergeant in the Marine Corps, said of his new positions. "I will be on a real thin line with the scheduling and keeping track of things. It's going to be tough, and it will take a lot of concentration and planning on my behalf."

Before joining the Raiders' staff, Davis, known for fiery pre-game speeches, coached 8- and 11-man football for military teams during his almost 24 years in the Corps.

"The change to [Raiders] head coach from offensive coordinator is going to take leadership, and I will have to set examples for the team," said Davis. "I have to think more of what I say, and I can't go crazy on the field like I used to."

As the Raiders' offensive coordinator, Davis prided himself on a playbook more complex than the usual semi-pro team might use. He doesn't plan to make many changes when the Raiders preseason workouts hit full stride.

"I will keep the Raiders' philosophy. I have a no-nonsense attitude and will take a business approach to everything," Davis said. "We will work hard, and we will take the leadership that Hampton set for us."

"We will have the same goals, which are to win the Mason Dixon Football League, the Eastern Football Alliance and to try to win the Super Bowl of semi-pro football."

He also said that the Raiders' returning players seemed pleased to hear of their new head coach.

"The older players looked enthusiastic," added Davis.

Hampton, who took over as Raiders head coach three games into the 2001 season and who had an overall record of 30 - 8, including two league runner-up finishes and an Eastern Football Alliance National crown, will remain a member of the organization as director of personnel and public relations. His new job as Jones Senior football coach made the choice clear-cut.

War Memorial Gym revamped at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island

MCRD Parris Island personnel laced up their sneakers and hit the court of the revamped War Memorial Gym, after Col. Michael Malachowsky, Depot chief of staff, and Ben King, director of Marine Corps Community Services South Carolina, cut the

ribbon to the new gym, unveiling the improvements within.

The gym, aptly named when it was built after WW II, had been in use more than 50 years, and was in dire need of a facelift, said Bill Brown, athletic director for the Combat Fitness Center, who was set to work refurbishing the gym two years ago.

"The whole floor had to be replaced and refinished, and the walls had to be painted," said King, who added that the gym was previously used as an auditorium for recruit training in the early 1950's. "It also needed new basketball goals and new seating."

Giving the gym a facelift, which included repainting the walls, installing new lighting, bleachers, basketball goals and new floor, cost \$880,000, according to Brown.

"It's totally improved -- the Marines have a great new facility here," said Lt. Cmdr. Charles Mendoza, Depot public works officer. "The detail they did on the floor is outstanding."

The new gym, which features enough bleachers to accommodate more than 600 people, can be used for basketball and volleyball, indoor circuit courses, as well as group aerobics.

The nearly two years it took to renovate the gym were well worth the wait, according to Fitness Center patrons.

"This is the best basketball court I've seen, and I've been in a ton of military facilities and military gyms," said Malachowsky, who was eager to use the new court to shoot some hoops. "It's going to mean a lot to our Marines and everybody else who is going to use the facility."

Danny Nee's Dukes beat Massachusetts, lose to Dayton

Martin Osimani made four free throws in the final 8.6 seconds to lead Duquesne's men's basketball team to a 79 - 76 victory over Massachusetts in the first round of the Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament.

The Dukes (then 12 - 16) advanced to lose to Dayton (then 22 - 7), 69 - 56, in a quarterfinal at the University of Dayton Arena.

Massachusetts (10 - 19) scored six points in a row to take a 71 - 67 lead with 2:32 left. But Duquesne pulled even on two free throws by Bryant McAllister and a baseline jumper by Jack Higgins.

After a miss by the Minutemen, McAllister hit a short turnaround jumper in the lane with 1:10 left for a 73 - 71 lead.

The Minutemen missed a 3-point attempt and on the ensuing trip down the floor, McAllister was knocked down in the backcourt by a UMass player. McAllister did not immediately get up, and Coach Danny Nee, a Marine veteran, summoned seldom-used guard Tyler Bluemling to shoot the free throws for the woozy McAllister.

Bluemling came into the game just long enough to make both shots with 32.2 seconds left for a 75 - 71 lead. Rashaun Freeman, who led the Minutemen with 18 points and 12 rebounds, scored inside with 10 seconds remaining to cut the lead to two points.

Osimani, who had not scored all night despite

playing 31 minutes, was fouled after catching the inbounds pass and made both shots with 8.6 seconds left.

After a long pass, Brennan Martin threw in a 3-pointer from the deep corner to narrow the lead to 77 - 76, and again the Minutemen fouled Osimani on the inbounds pass. He again made both shots with 1.8 seconds remaining. Jimmy Tricco then intercepted a long pass and dribbled the ball to run out the remaining time.

Gunn is a member of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn., 2nd Marine Division Assn., Marine Corps Intelligence Assn., Marine Corps Aviation Assn., Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.

New River basketball standings

<u>Division A</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
MALS-29 Sup	6	1
Blue Knights	5	1
MALS-26 HQ	5	2
H&HS	3	3
MALS-29	2	4
VMX-22	1	5
HMH-461	0	6

<u>Division B</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
MWSS-272	6	0
MALS-29 Avi	5	1
NAMTRA	3	3
MALS-26 HQ	2	3
VMT-302	1	4
HMM-264	0	6



*These were the standings March 22.

HMM-266 aids 22nd MEU in PHIBLEX

Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks
correspondent

ABOARD THE USS WASP IN THE ADRIATIC SEA -- Five days of near-steady rain, blasting winds and temperatures hovering near the freezing mark did nothing to deter the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) from successfully completing an amphibious landing exercise (PHIBLEX) in the east European nation of Albania.

The brunt of the training ashore was conducted by the MEU's ground combat element, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, who began landing in Albania via helicopter and landing craft March 8.

"The BLT operated in three different locations while ashore in Albania," said Lt. Col. Asad A. Khan, BLT 1/6 commanding officer. "Doing so [widespread dispersion of forces] challenged our command and control sustainment, and more importantly, the

terrain, weather and live fire opportunities were exactly what we needed to maintain our fighting skills."

The five-day PHIBLEX brought ashore nearly all of the Marines and Sailors assigned to BLT 1/6 headquarters and three organic rifle companies, weapons company and attachments to training areas in the northern part of Albania.

The Marines assigned to the unit's tank and amphibious assault vehicle platoons left their vehicles aboard ship to reinforce their small unit infantry skills while the artillerymen of Golf Battery came ashore without their M198 155mm howitzers. The heaviest weapons brought ashore were the BLT's reinforced platoon of light armored vehicles (LAVs), the anti-tank missile and machine gun-equipped Humvees of the Combined Anti-Armor Team (Heavy) Platoon.

An integral part of the training was the extensive live firing conducted by the Marines, many of whom had the opportunity to fire weapons other than those they normally carry.

"It was really good training," said Lance Cpl. Jason C. Taylor of Piqua, Ohio, a scout assigned to the Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Platoon, who put down his M16A2 service rifle and fired the Beretta 9mm pistol, M240G medium machine gun and M249 squad automatic weapon as

well as spotted rounds from the Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon (SMAW). "I got to shoot a lot of rounds from weapons I don't usually get to use."

Further south from where the majority of the small unit training took place, a supporting arms exercise brought heavier arms to bear. In addition to ferrying Marines to training areas ashore, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 (Reinforced) attack helicopters joined 81mm mortars and naval gunfire in saturating ranges with high explosive rounds.

"Albania provides a MAGTF [Marine Air Ground Task Force] an ideal place to train across all its capabilities from small unit live fire to naval surface fires," said Khan upon returning to the USS Wasp. "It [PHIBLEX] allowed our noncommissioned officers to focus on small unit skills and live fire which will be essential for us as we continue to prepare for combat operations."

In addition to BLT 1/6 and HMM-266, the 22nd MEU consists of its command element and MEU Service Support Group-22, who also put forces ashore in Albania.

The unit left Camp Lejeune on Feb. 19 aboard the amphibious assault ships USS Wasp, USS Whidbey Island and USS Shreveport as part of Expeditionary Strike Group 2.



Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks

A machine gunner from Golf Battery, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, engages targets on a range in northern Albania. The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) was in Albania conducting an amphibious landing exercise from March 8 - 12.

M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun

The Browning M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun is an automatic, recoil operated, air-cooled machine gun and is crew transportable with limited amounts of ammunition over short distances.

By repositioning some of the component parts, ammunition may be fed from either the left or right side. A disintegrating metallic link-belt is used to feed the ammunition into the weapon.

This gun has a back plate with spade grips, trigger and bolt latch release. This gun may be mounted on ground mounts and most vehicles including aircraft as an anti-personnel and anti-aircraft weapon. The gun is equipped with leaf-type rear sight, flash suppressor and a spare barrel assembly.

General Characteristics

Builder: Saco Defense

Length: 61.42 inches

Weight:

Gun: 84 pounds

M3 Tripod: 44 pounds

Bore diameter: .50 inches

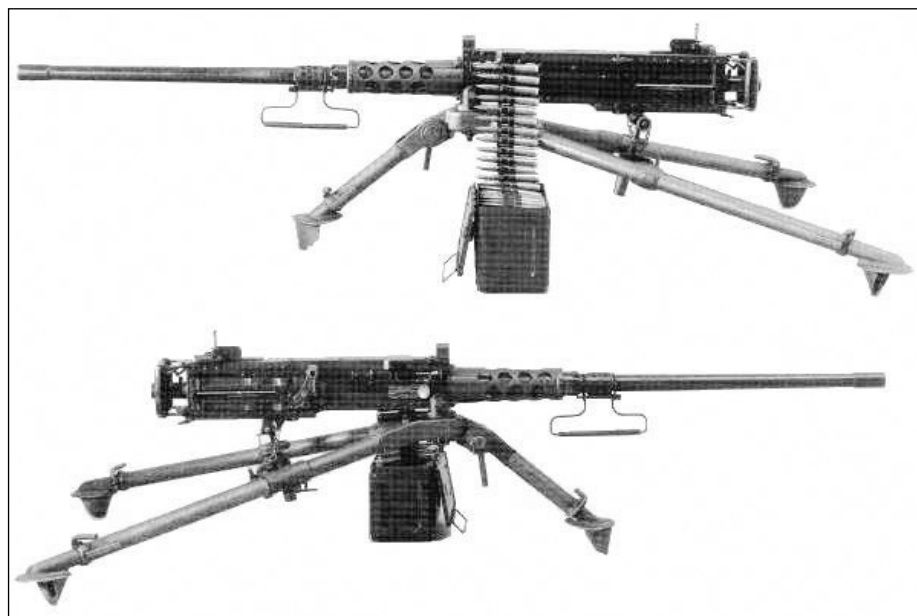
Maximum effective range: 2000 meters with tripod mount

Maximum range: 4.22 miles

Cyclic rate of fire: 550 rounds per minute

Unit replacement cost: \$14,002

Editor's note: Information for this section was taken from the Marine Corps Fact File.



People of hopes, dreams, desires

Cmdr. Fred Hilder
MAG-29 chaplain

The words resound throughout the command that is deployed: "I hope we..." The end of this wishful statement varies from person to person and might be something like, "go to Palma," "return home on time," "get e-mail back up" or "have surf and turf for dinner." Some are statements of rational and realistic substance, others are made of pure fantasy. We are truly "people of hope."

What is on your hope list? Possibly a phone call or e-mail from your deployed spouse, a good night's sleep, a family situation resolved, a feeling of heaviness or depression lifted, someone to help with the children, a debt paid off or a relationship reconciled. There is an endless list of hopes, dreams and desires, because to live is to hope. We cannot and should not want to escape that aspect of our existence.

Religious devotion serves our need to have hope, and the months of March through May bring a medley of significant faith observances and seasonal

changes. Muslims celebrate a new year, Jews observe Passover, Buddhists remember the birth of Buddha, and Christians rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, their Lord and Savior. That is my faith, and I offer this reflection in recognition of Easter, just a short time from now, and this period of spring and new life.

I have read that a mausoleum's crystal casket in Red Square contains the body of Nikolai Lenin. The inscription reads: "For he was the greatest leader of all people of all time. He was the lord of the new humanity; he was the savior of the world." Note how the inscription is phrased in the past tense. Christians worship the Savior in the present tense. Our Savior, Jesus the Christ, (meaning Messiah or Savior), said, "I am He who lives and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." (Revelation 1:18, NKJV).

The fun and festive events of Easter, the candy, eggs and baskets, serve to refresh our childhood memories and have an enjoyable place of their own. The religious events of Easter, from Palm Sunday to

Resurrection Sunday, speak to us about death and eternal life. Not "fun" stuff, but real life. To prepare for this week of Passion, I suggest we ask ourselves the question, "How is my life to be different, and how can I make a difference?"

It is so appropriate that it is now springtime, as of March 20, because spring is a season of faith and hope. In past years, as I washed the spring pollen off of my vehicle, I tried to maintain a positive outlook. It meant remembering the importance of that yellow dust to bringing in new life as it provides vital fertilization to plants and flowers. Likewise, choosing a personal relationship with God is like having our lives pollinated with the love and forgiveness of our Lord, which leads to hope!

Is my life any different because I choose to have hope and not live in despair? To look towards God and not be obsessed with only my own circumstances. To be a giver, caring generously for the well being of others. To be a person of hope and giving hope to others every day. Happy springtime, Happy Easter, and may God bless you and your family.

Chapel schedule of special services for Lent and Easter

- March 26: 7 p.m. - Stations of the Cross
- April 2: 7 p.m. - Stations of the Cross
- April 4: 9 a.m. - Palm Sunday. Holy Mass and distribution of Palms
- April 5: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. confession
- April 6: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. confession
- April 7: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. confession
- April 8: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. confession
6 p.m. - Holy Thursday. Holy Mass and washing of the feet
7:30 - 10 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- April 9: 3 p.m. - Good Friday. Solemn Stations of the Cross
3:30 p.m. - Good Friday Liturgy
- April 10: 8 p.m. - Easter Vigil Celebrations
- April 11: 9 a.m. - Easter, Holy Mass

Family Services Center

Keystone Meetings for Teens

Each 1st and 3rd Friday
6 - 7 p.m.

A Boys and Girls Club program offers an opportunity to gain leadership skills, participate in and earn community service hours as well as social activities.

AA Meetings

Each Monday
11:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

The center now has Alcoholic Anonymous meetings every Monday. These meetings are for alcoholics and non-alcoholics.

Play Morning

Youth Community Center

Play morning is a time for mom and dad to have fun with their children age 6 and under. Come play with us! For more information, please call New Parent Support Program at 451-5286.

Power Hour

Every Afternoon

An education program is held by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to help students excel in school.

Every day after school, members will have a special place that is quiet and private to do their homework.

Someone will be on hand to help members who have questions or need help

understanding their homework.

Tutoring can be scheduled on a weekly or daily basis.

Marriage Workshop

March 25
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Are you thinking about getting married or are newly married? Attend this one-day work shop that covers the nuts and bolts of marriage. This work shop can give you skills that help build a better relationship, ingredients for a strong marriage, conflict resolution, financial management, nutrition and much more.

Military Spouse-Local Employment Seminar

March 30
9 - 10:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is required. This seminar is available for spouses and family members seeking part-time or full-time employment in the local community. Topics discussed will include networking, resume or application assistance, interview tips and more.

For more information on programs or to register for one of the classes, please call the center at 449-6185 or visit our Web site at <http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcasnr/fsc/fschome.htm>.

Get on schedule with the Station Theater

Get in free with military identification.

The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins.



Movie times are subject to change.
For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.

Wed. March 24	9 a.m. 7 p.m.	Cold Mountain Cold Mountain	R R	154 min. 154 min.
Fri. March 26	7 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	Catch That Kid My Baby's Daddy	PG PG-13	92 min. 87 min.
Sat. March 27	7 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	Catch That Kid Cold Mountain	PG R	92 min. 154 min.
Sun. March 28	3 p.m. 6 p.m.	Catch That Kid Cold Mountain	PG R	92 min. 154 min.
Mon. March 29	7 p.m.	The Perfect Score	PG-13	93 min.
Wed. March 31	9 a.m. 7 p.m.	The Big Bounce The Big Bounce	R R	89 min. 89 min.
Fri. April 2	7 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	You Got Served The Perfect Score	PG-13 PG-13	95 min. 93 min.

LCTV-10 Schedule



March 26 - April 1

Show Title	Show Time
A Place Called Fairfield Harbour	7:30 a.m.
The Morning Report	8 a.m.
Who Wants to be a Key Volunteer?	8:30 a.m.
Your Corps	9 a.m.
Naval Wars: France Tripoli	9:30 a.m.
Cooking With Tony: Spicy Chicken	10:15 a.m.
Air Force News	11 a.m.
The Morning Report	12 p.m.
North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast	12:30 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	1 p.m.
Falklands	1:30 p.m.
A Place Called Fairfield Harbour	2:15 p.m.
Who Wants to be a Key Volunteer?	2:30 p.m.
Your Corps	3 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	3:30 p.m.
The Morning Report	4 p.m.
Naval Wars: France Tripoli	4:30 p.m.
North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast	5:10 p.m.
Army News	5:30 p.m.
Cooking With Tony: Spicy Chicken	6 p.m.

Show Title	Show Time
A Place Called Fairfield Harbour	6:45 p.m.
Who Wants to be a Key Volunteer?	7 p.m.
The Morning Report	7:30 p.m.
Air Force News	8 p.m.
Falklands	9 p.m.
North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast	10 p.m.
Naval Wars: France Tripoli	10:15 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	11 p.m.
The Morning Report	11:30 p.m.
Army News	12 a.m.
Air Force News	12:30 a.m.
Cooking With Tony: Spicy Chicken	2 a.m.
Falklands	2:45 a.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	3:30 a.m.
A PLace Called Fairfield Harbour	4 a.m.
The Morning Report	5 a.m.
Who Wants to be a Key Volunteer?	5:30 a.m.
Naval Wars: France Tripoli	6 a.m.
North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast	7 a.m.